

REMARKS

Claim 5 is amended and Claims 9-21 are new. Support for Claim 5 is found in the originally-filed claims. Support for new Claims 9-21 is found in original Claim 5. No new matter is believed to be introduced by the entry of these amendments.

Upon entry of these amendments, Claims 5-21 will be pending in the application. Claim 5 is independent.

At the outset, Applicants thank Examiner Hightower for the helpful comments during the courteous discussion of the present application held on August 27, 2003, which is summarized and expanded upon below. Further, Applicants thank Examiner Hightower for indicating during the above-mentioned discussion that the above amendment with the remarks below would further favorable prosecution of the present application.

The rejection of Claims 5-8 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) over JP 07-049501 (from now on JP '501) is believed to be obviated by the above-amendment combined with the remarks below.

During the above-mentioned discussion, Applicants' representative argued that the Abstract for JP '501 failed to disclose or suggest the claimed structure of the claimed diaminobenzene derivative altogether because it merely discloses an agent that is a reaction product of tetracarboxylic acid dianhydride with a diamine compound. It should be noted that the Examiner agreed with our argument, but provided Applicants' representatives with a full English-language disclosure of JP '501. Further, the Examiner indicated that the English-language disclosure appears to disclose a diaminobenzene derivative having X as oxygen and P as a single bond.

In light of the above, the English-language translation of JP '501 appears to disclose, at best, a diaminobenzene derivative having X to be oxygen and P to be a single bond. It should be noted that the Examiner indicated during the above-mentioned discussion that the

Application No. 10/018,860
Reply to Office Action of July 18, 2003

enclosed amendment to Claim 5 which now includes the phrase "with the proviso that when X is oxygen, P cannot be a single bond" appears to exclude all of the compounds disclosed and/or suggested by JP '501. Applicants thank the Examiner for indicating the same during the above-mentioned discussion.

In accordance with the Examiner's suggestion, Applicants have amended Claim 5 to include the above-mentioned proviso. Further, Applicants have added Claims 9-21 which are also neither disclose nor suggested by JP '501 (English-language translation).

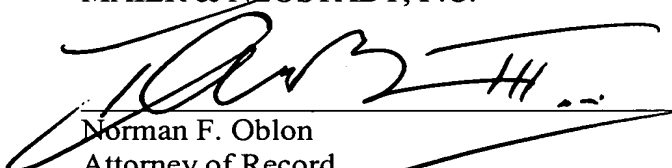
In light of the above, Applicants respectfully request the above-mentioned rejection to be withdrawn.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicants respectfully submit that the application is now in condition for allowance. Applicants respectfully request favorable consideration and prompt allowance of the application.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further is necessary in order to place the application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact Applicants' undersigned representative at the telephone number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,

OBLON, SPIVAK, McCLELLAND,
MAIER & NEUSTADT, P.C.



Norman F. Oblon
Attorney of Record
Registration No. 24,618

Customer Number
22850

Tel: (703) 413-3000
Fax: (703) 413 -2220
(OSMMN 08/03)
NFO/TWB/cja

Thomas W. Barnes, PhD
Registration No. 52,595